

Media Release

The Hon Harriet Shing MP
Minister for Housing
Minister for Water
Minister for Equality



Wednesday, 4 September 2024

RAINBOW EVENTS BRINGING PRIDE TO REGIONAL COMMUNITIES

The Allan Labor Government is funding twelve diverse projects which will kick off in the regions this summer as part of Victoria's Pride, a statewide celebration of LGBTIQ+ communities.

Minister for Equality Harriet Shing today announced the recipients of the Regional Activation Program of Victoria's Pride, delivered by LGBTIQ+ arts and cultural organisation Midsumma. Recipients will receive funding of up to \$10,000 for projects showcasing regionally based LGBTIQ+ artists, voices and stories.

Victoria's Pride begins in November, with the summer festival culminating in a one-day street party in Melbourne's iconic Gertrude and Smith Street precinct on Sunday, 9 February 2025.

The program showcases the creativity, joy and resilience of rainbow communities with events including *Party in Pride*, a free three-day LGBTIQ+ festival in Beechworth, and *Queer Cakes & Butch Bakes, a community bake-off with pride* in Castlemaine.

Self-expression will also be celebrated with *Picture Me*, a day of clothes swapping and free makeup and hair services in Warragul, as well as *fourteen-and-nine-months*, a coming-of-age short film set in Bendigo.

Tens of thousands of people are expected to take part in events and activities across the state, including Beechworth, Nathalia, Bendigo, South Gippsland, Warrnambool, Castlemaine, Mildura, Warragul, Wangaratta, Geelong, Horsham and Portland.

Victoria's Labor Government has led the nation in fostering inclusive communities where everyone can live safely and authentically, appointing Australia's first Minister for Equality in 2014, and first Commissioner for LGBTIQ+ Communities in 2015.

For more information on Victoria's Pride Regional Activation Program visit midsumma.org.au/regional-activations.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Equality Harriet Shing

"I'm so excited to celebrate Victoria's Pride later this year with our rainbow communities right across Victoria – there are some incredible events scheduled and I encourage everyone to get involved."

"Victoria's Pride is not just about embracing our amazing LGBTIQ+ communities but creating opportunities for our rainbow communities in the regions to express themselves and deepen connections in their towns."

Quote attributable to Midsumma CEO Karen Bryant

"We are thrilled with the quality and breadth of projects this year across regional Victoria. These include new areas for Midsumma, many of which demonstrate the outcomes of significant capacity-building work undertaken in previous years."

Quotes attributable to Midsumma Festival Community Engagement Manager, Ashlee Hints

"The Regional Activation Program plays a crucial role in bridging the gap of geographical isolation for LGBTIQ+ individuals living in regional areas. It offers unique opportunities for connection, creativity, and community-building."

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